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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks.

Status Of Claims

Claims 6-15, 19-22, 29-31, and 35-37 have been previously withdrawn. Claims 1-3 and 6-37 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 38-65 have been added. Accordingly, Claims 4-5 and 38-65 are pending in this application. Claims 4-5 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-5, 23, 25, 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 3, 23, 25, 26, and 28 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering their rejection moot. Claims 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 because they depended from rejected Claim 1. Claims 4-5 have been amended and are now dependent from new Claim 38. Applicants respectfully assert that new Claim 38 is proper under 35 U.S.C. § 112 thereby rendering amended Claims 4-5 proper under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 23, 25, 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

On pages 4-8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-5, 23, 25, 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramakrishnan et al. (US Patent No. 5,404,536) in view of the Wi-Fi standard (IEEE 802.11) generally defined by Wikipedia. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in light of the new claims.

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New independent Claims 38, 46, and 56 include "scheduling interrupts before a start time of one of a series of sequential time slots each having an unique start time and an unique end time, wherein each interrupt has an associated command; selecting one of said scheduled interrupts before said start time based on a predetermined priority; and processing, from said start time to no longer than an end time of said one of said time slots, at least a portion of said associated command of said selected interrupt such that only said associated command is processed during said one of said time slots." It is respectfully submitted that neither Ramakrishnan nor the Wi-Fi standard (IEEE 802.11) generally defined by Wikipedia, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests these features.

In contrast, Ramakrishnan teaches "processing of received packets is usually initiated from a polling loop, without interrupts and the processing overhead they entail." (Col. 4, Lines 25-28). Thus, Ramakrishnan teaches a method of receiving packets and processing background tasks without use of interrupts. When interrupts are used in the method of Ramakrishnan, they are used to cut short the amount of time allotted to the processing of a scheduled command. For example, Ramakrishnan teaches, "If, however, the background processing completes before the allotted 640us time interval, then we return to processing receive packets by forcing a receive interrupt, as indicated by transition 32." (Col. 6, Lines 2-5). Thus, Ramakrishnan teaches using an interrupt to cut short the time slot originally allotted to a first command in order to begin immediately processing a second command. In contrast, Applicants' claims include processing only the scheduled command during a given time slot regardless of whether the scheduled command finishes early.

Applicants claim "sequential time slots" and "processing, from said start time to no longer than an end time of said one of said time slots, at least a portion of said associated command of said selected interrupt". Thus, Applicants claim sequential time slots that are used for processing scheduled interrupts. In contrast, the time slots in Ramakrishnan are non-sequential. Ramakrishnan only teaches processing scheduled interrupts in the chain of blocks 48, 50, 52, and 30. Thus, the time slot of Ramakrishnan is defined by the

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time needed to execute blocks 48, 50, 52, and 30. Sequential time slots would thus be defined as the repeated continuous execution of blocks 48, 50, 52, and 30. Instead, Ramakrishnan teaches executing other operations in between the execution of this group of blocks. Ramakrishnan teaches in Figure 2 that these blocks are only executed once and only after there is no receive work to do (block 36), the receive burst counter exceeds 100 (block 40) or the buffer counter exceeds 300 (block 54). Blocks 48, 50, 52, and 30 are thus only run once every time there is either no receive work to be processed or enough receive work has already been processed. Therefore, Ramakrishnan teaches that these blocks are not executed sequentially. Thus, Ramakrishnan does not teach sequential time slots.

The Wi-Fi standard as generally defined by Wikipedia deals exclusively with over-the-air modulation techniques. The Wi-Fi standard does not teach or suggest the claimed "scheduling interrupts before a start time" or "selecting one of said scheduled interrupts before said start time based on a predetermined priority". It is respectfully submitted that for all of the foregoing reasons, the Wi-Fi standard as generally defined by Wikipedia either alone or in combination with Ramakrishnan does not teach or suggest new independent Claims 38, 46, and 56.

Claims 1, 3, 23, 25, 26, and 28 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering their rejection moot. Claims 4-5 have been amended and are now dependent from new independent Claim 38. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, 23, 25, 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.
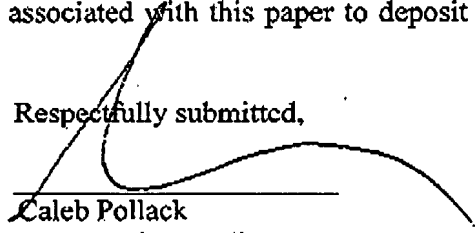
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims distinguish over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue are therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss any still outstanding matters with respect to the present application.

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     No fees are believed to be due in connection with this paper. However if any such fees are due, please change any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,

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